

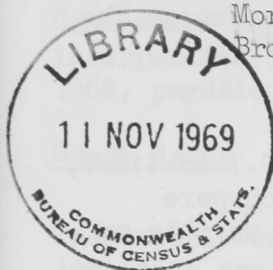
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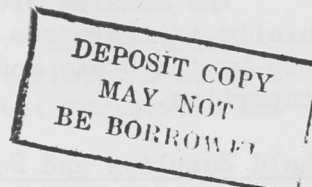
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RETAIL PRICES AND WAGE RATES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1969

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



Introduction

The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly, for each State Capital, the variations in prices of commodities and services which affect a high proportion of the expenditure of wage earner households. Commodities and services included in the index are food, clothing, drapery, home ownership, rent of houses and flats, fuel, light, furniture, household appliances and supplies, fares, motoring, tobacco, cigarettes, beer, cinema, radio and television licences, newspapers, postal and telephone services, hairdressing, dry cleaning, medical and health services, and various other items.

The various commodities and services have been combined into groups, and group indexes are available for Food, Clothing and Drapery, Housing, Household Supplies and Equipment, and Miscellaneous.

The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city. The base of the index for each city and for the weighted average, six State Capitals, is year 1966-67 = 100.0. Group indexes also have separate bases for each group.

September Quarter 1969

There was an increase of 0.8 per cent in the Brisbane Consumer Price Index from June quarter 1969 to September quarter 1969, the index number for All Groups rising from 106.3 to 107.2. For the twelve months ended September 1969 the All Groups increase was 2.4 per cent.

From June quarter 1969 to September quarter 1969 the Consumer Price Index increased in all State Capitals. Percentage increases were as follows: Brisbane, 0.8; Perth and Sydney, 0.7; Adelaide, 0.5; and Melbourne and Hobart, 0.4.

Since the base year, 1966-67, the rise in the retail price level has been greatest in Sydney and smallest in Adelaide. Percentage increases from 1966-67 to September quarter 1969 were as follows: Sydney, 8.4; Perth, 7.7; Melbourne, 7.6; Hobart, 7.4; Brisbane, 7.2; and Adelaide, 6.9. The rise in the weighted average for the six State Capitals was 7.8 per cent. (It should be noted that these figures merely indicate rates of price rises in separate cities and do not represent in any way the relativities of actual price levels in the different cities.)

A brief outline of the movements of the various group indexes for Brisbane between June quarter 1969 and September quarter 1969 is given below.

Food Group

The Food Group index increased from 105.5 to 106.2, a rise during the quarter of 0.7 per cent. While price increases were recorded for some fresh meat items, milk, and soft drinks, these were offset to some extent by decreases in the prices of eggs and potatoes.

### Clothing and Drapery Group

Increases in the prices of footwear and women's clothing were mainly responsible for the rise of 0.6 per cent in the Clothing and Drapery Group. The index increased from 105.2 to 105.8.

### Housing Group

The Housing Group index increased by 1.8 per cent, from 110.7 to 112.7, due chiefly to increases in municipal rates and government rents which were adjusted by the State Housing Commission because of changes in rates payable on its properties.

### Household Supplies and Equipment Group

This group index rose from 104.8 to 105.2, an increase of 0.4 per cent.

### Miscellaneous Group

The Miscellaneous Group index rose from 106.6 to 107.9, an increase of 1.2 per cent. The rise was chiefly attributable to increases in the prices of motor cars and health services.

## COMMONWEALTH AND STATE WAGE RATES

Commonwealth and State wage rates are reviewed by the appropriate industrial authorities from time to time and details of basic wage rates (which used to be determined in part by price movements) were shown in issues of this Bulletin up to March quarter 1967.

### Commonwealth Rates

In a decision of 8 July 1966 the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission announced that it intended to grant relief to low wage earners by inserting a provision in awards prescribing a minimum wage for adult males. The weekly minimum wage rate prescribed was the current basic wage rate, which for Brisbane was \$31, plus \$3.75 per week.

Subsequently, the minimum wage has been twice increased when all award rates were raised as described below. The wage applicable to each State is set out in the following table.

Minimum Wages, Adult Males: Weekly Rates, Commonwealth Awards

| Date Operative <sup>a</sup> | Sydney | Melbourne | Brisbane | Adelaide | Perth | Hobart |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------|----------|----------|-------|--------|
|                             | \$     | \$        | \$       | \$       | \$    | \$     |
| 11 July 1966 ..             | 37.25  | 36.45     | 34.75    | 36.05    | 36.55 | 37.15  |
| 1 July 1967 ..              | 38.25  | 37.45     | 35.75    | 37.05    | 37.55 | 38.15  |
| 25 October 1968             | 39.60  | 38.80     | 37.10    | 38.40    | 38.90 | 39.50  |

a Rates became operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing on or after the date shown.

The Commission in June 1967 decided to eliminate basic wages and margins from its awards and to introduce the concept of a "total wage" to operate from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing on or after 1 July 1967. The last basic wage declaration was that operative from 11 July 1966 when the male rate in Brisbane became \$31 per week.



Since this decision all wage rates (i.e. total wages) for adult males and adult females in awards of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission have been increased at intervals by the same amount. These increases, incorporated in the table above, were \$1 from 1 July 1967 and \$1.35 from 25 October 1968, payable from the beginning of the first pay-period after those dates.

### State Rates

The concept of a basic wage has been retained by the Queensland Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. The variations since its inception are published in the Queensland Year Book. Recent variations are set out below.

#### Queensland Basic Wage, South-Eastern Division

| Date Operative                 | Adult Males | Adult Females |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
|                                | \$          | \$            |
| 6 May 1963 .. ..               | 28.60       | 21.45         |
| 13 July 1964 .. ..             | 30.00       | 22.50         |
| 7 December 1964 .. ..          | 30.60       | 22.95         |
| 29 March 1965 .. ..            | 30.90       | 23.20         |
| 20 September 1965 .. ..        | 31.40       | 23.55         |
| 23 May 1966 .. ..              | 32.70       | 24.55         |
| 10 April 1967 .. ..            | 33.20       | 24.90         |
| 3 July 1967 <sup>a</sup> .. .. | 34.20       | 25.90         |
| 28 October 1968 .. ..          | 35.55       | 27.25         |

a A general award increase of \$1 per week was retrospectively declared to have been part of the basic wage.

Current basic and living wage rates ruling in capital cities of all States are set out in the table below.

#### State Basic Wages: Weekly Rates

| State             | Date Operative   | Adult Males | Adult Females |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
|                   |                  | \$          | \$            |
| New South Wales   | 25 October 1968  | 35.85       | 27.45         |
| Victoria          | 1 July 1967      | a           | a             |
| Queensland        | 28 October 1968  | 35.55       | 27.25         |
| South Australia   | 28 October 1968  | 34.65       | 26.55         |
| Western Australia | 19 November 1968 | 35.45       | 27.08         |
| Tasmania          | 25 October 1968  | 35.75       | 27.40         |

a In Victoria, basic wages and margins were deleted from wages board determinations and wage rates expressed as "total wages" from 1 July 1967. The State basic wage was \$32.70 at that date. Since then "total wages" have increased in conformity with increases in "total wages" paid under Commonwealth awards as shown above.

State awards in three States include provisions which prescribe minimum rates for adult males similar to the Commonwealth award provisions mentioned above. Current minimum rates operative in the three States are as set out below.

Minimum Wages, Adult Males: Weekly Rates, State Awards

| State             | Date Operative  | Amount |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------|
|                   |                 | \$     |
| South Australia   | 28 October 1968 | 38.40  |
| Western Australia | 25 October 1968 | 38.90  |
| Tasmania          | 25 October 1968 | 40.45  |

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6 November 1969

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Table 1 - Consumer Price Index: Total and Group Indexes, Brisbane  
(Year 1966-67 = 100.0)

| Period                                  | Food  | Clothing<br>and<br>Drapery | Housing | Household<br>Supplies<br>and<br>Equipment | Miscell-<br>aneous | All<br>Groups |
|---|-------|----------------------------|---------|---|--------------------|---------------|
| <u>Year</u>                             |       |                            |         |   |                    |               |
| 1959-60 ..                              | 80.9  | 90.5                       | 81.4    | 94.9                                      | 80.6               | 84.2          |
| 1960-61 ..                              | 85.0  | 93.0                       | 84.5    | 95.5                                      | 83.1               | 87.1          |
| 1961-62 ..                              | 85.2  | 94.3                       | 86.3    | 97.0                                      | 85.6               | 88.4          |
| 1962-63 ..                              | 84.6  | 94.6                       | 88.5    | 96.8                                      | 86.3               | 88.7          |
| 1963-64 ..                              | 86.7  | 95.2                       | 89.2    | 95.9                                      | 86.8               | 89.6          |
| 1964-65 ..                              | 92.2  | 96.6                       | 91.5    | 96.7                                      | 90.4               | 93.0          |
| 1965-66 ..                              | 98.3  | 97.8                       | 97.2    | 98.7                                      | 95.4               | 97.5          |
| 1966-67 ..                              | 100.0 | 100.0                      | 100.0   | 100.0                                     | 100.0              | 100.0         |
| 1967-68 ..                              | 103.6 | 102.4                      | 105.8   | 101.2                                     | 103.2              | 103.3         |
| 1968-69 ..                              | 104.7 | 104.3                      | 109.6   | 104.3                                     | 106.0              | 105.5         |
| <u>Quarter</u>                          |       |                            |         |   |                    |               |
| 1968: September                         | 103.9 | 103.6                      | 108.6   | 103.5                                     | 105.0              | 104.7         |
| December                                | 104.1 | 104.1                      | 109.2   | 104.2                                     | 106.1              | 105.3         |
| 1969: March ..                          | 105.1 | 104.4                      | 110.0   | 104.7                                     | 106.3              | 105.8         |
| June ..                                 | 105.5 | 105.2                      | 110.7   | 104.8                                     | 106.6              | 106.3         |
| September                               | 106.2 | 105.8                      | 112.7   | 105.2                                     | 107.9              | 107.2         |
| Percentage Increase on Previous Quarter |       |                            |         |   |                    |               |
| <u>Quarter</u>                          |       |                            |         |   |                    |               |
| 1968: September                         | 0.2   | 0.5                        | 2.0     | 1.8                                       | 1.3                | 1.0           |
| December                                | 0.2   | 0.5                        | 0.6     | 0.7                                       | 1.0                | 0.6           |
| 1969: March ..                          | 1.0   | 0.3                        | 0.7     | 0.5                                       | 0.2                | 0.5           |
| June ..                                 | 0.4   | 0.8                        | 0.6     | 0.1                                       | 0.3                | 0.5           |
| September                               | 0.7   | 0.6                        | 1.8     | 0.4                                       | 1.2                | 0.8           |



Table 2 - Consumer Price Index: State Capital Cities  
(Year 1966-67 = 100.0 for Each City and for Six State Capitals)

As the base for each city is 100.0, the indexes in the table below do not indicate relative price levels as between cities, but they may be used to compare relative price movements in the various cities.

| Period          | Sydney | Melbourne | Brisbane | Adelaide | Perth | Hobart | Weighted<br>Average<br>Six State<br>Capitals |
|-----------------|--------|-----------|----------|----------|-------|--------|--|
| <u>Year</u>     |        |           |          |          |       |        |  |
| 1959-60 ..      | 86.5   | 85.3      | 84.2     | 86.2     | 84.8  | 85.6   | 85.7   |
| 1960-61 ..      | 89.6   | 89.5      | 87.1     | 89.8     | 87.9  | 90.3   | 89.2   |
| 1961-62 ..      | 89.9   | 89.8      | 88.4     | 89.5     | 88.2  | 90.7   | 89.6   |
| 1962-63 ..      | 90.4   | 89.7      | 88.7     | 89.1     | 88.7  | 90.7   | 89.8   |
| 1963-64 ..      | 91.4   | 90.4      | 89.6     | 90.2     | 89.8  | 91.7   | 90.6   |
| 1964-65 ..      | 94.5   | 94.0      | 93.0     | 93.9     | 92.6  | 94.6   | 94.0   |
| 1965-66 ..      | 97.7   | 97.5      | 97.5     | 97.0     | 96.1  | 98.0   | 97.4   |
| 1966-67 ..      | 100.0  | 100.0     | 100.0    | 100.0    | 100.0 | 100.0  | 100.0  |
| 1967-68 ..      | 103.2  | 103.7     | 103.3    | 102.9    | 102.9 | 104.6  | 103.3  |
| 1968-69 ..      | 106.2  | 106.2     | 105.5    | 105.3    | 105.5 | 106.1  | 106.0  |
| <u>Quarter</u>  |        |           |          |          |       |        |  |
| 1968: September | 104.4  | 105.1     | 104.7    | 104.2    | 104.3 | 105.0  | 104.6  |
| December        | 105.9  | 106.0     | 105.3    | 105.2    | 104.9 | 105.8  | 105.7  |
| 1969: March ..  | 106.7  | 106.6     | 105.8    | 105.5    | 105.6 | 106.5  | 106.4  |
| June ..         | 107.6  | 107.2     | 106.3    | 106.4    | 107.0 | 107.0  | 107.2  |
| September       | 108.4  | 107.6     | 107.2    | 106.9    | 107.7 | 107.4  | 107.8  |

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food, Brisbane

| Item                                   | Unit                 | Year  | Month        |                |               |
|--|----------------------|-------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
|  |                      | 1968  | July<br>1969 | August<br>1969 | Sept.<br>1969 |
| <u>Cereal Products</u>                 |                      | Cents | Cents        | Cents          | Cents         |
| Bread, white (unwrapped and delivered) | 2 lb loaf            | 18.1  | 19.0         | 19.0           | 19.0          |
| Flour, plain ..                        | 2 lb pkt             | 14.3  | 15.6         | 15.6           | 15.5          |
| Flour, self-raising ..                 | 2 lb pkt             | 17.1  | 18.3         | 18.3           | 18.4          |
| Biscuits, wheatmeal ..                 | $\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt | 16.8  | 17.9         | 17.4           | 17.6          |
| Biscuits, milk arrowroot ..            | $\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt | 17.6  | 18.6         | 17.2           | 17.4          |
| Biscuits, dry ..                       | $\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt | 17.7  | 19.2         | 17.5           | 18.5          |
| Oats, rolled ..                        | 2 lb pkt             | 41.4  | 40.2         | 41.9           | 41.3          |
| Rice ..                                | 1 lb pkt             | 14.0  | 14.7         | 14.5           | 14.4          |
| <u>Dairy Produce</u>                   |                      |       |              |                |               |
| Milk, fresh (bottled, delivered) ..    | 1 quart              | 18.0  | 20.0         | 20.0           | 20.0          |
| Milk, powdered ..                      | 12 oz tin            | 39.2  | 39.2         | 39.8           | 40.8          |
| Cheese, cheddar, matured ..            | 8 oz pkt             | 32.7  | 32.8         | 32.8           | 32.5          |
| Cheese, cheddar, processed ..          | 8 oz pkt             | 24.3  | 25.1         | 25.1           | 25.3          |
| Butter ..                              | 1 lb                 | 50.6  | 54.0         | 54.2           | 54.0          |
| Eggs (24 oz in carton) ..              | dozen                | 58.4  | 67.8         | 63.9           | 58.7          |

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food, Brisbane (continued)

| Item                               | Unit         | Year  | Month     |             |            |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------|-----------|-------------|------------|
|                                    |              | 1968  | July 1969 | August 1969 | Sept. 1969 |
| <u>Fruit and Vegetables</u>        |              | Cents | Cents     | Cents       | Cents      |
| Peaches, canned ..                 | 29 oz tin    | 31.1  | 31.7      | 32.5        | 32.2       |
| Pears, canned ..                   | 29 oz tin    | 31.4  | 32.5      | 32.5        | 32.2       |
| Sultanas ..                        | 1 lb pkt     | 36.0  | 37.6      | 37.5        | 37.6       |
| Peas, green, canned ..             | 15½ oz tin   | 20.7  | 20.0      | 20.8        | 19.5       |
| Peas, frozen ..                    | 10 oz pkt    | 26.6  | 26.6      | 26.6        | 26.6       |
| Potatoes ..                        | 1 lb         | 7.1   | 4.0       | 3.8         | 4.2        |
| Onions ..                          | 1 lb         | 11.1  | 8.0       | 6.8         | 6.8        |
| <u>Beverages</u>                   |              |       |           |             |            |
| Tea ..                             | ½ lb pkt     | 30.8  | 29.2      | 29.3        | 29.3       |
| Coffee, instant ..                 | 2 oz jar     | 43.6  | 45.5      | 45.3        | 42.3       |
| Cocoa ..                           | 8 oz pkt     | 32.0  | 32.9      | 35.2        | 35.2       |
| <u>Other Food (excluding meat)</u> |              |       |           |             |            |
| Sugar ..                           | 4 lb pkt     | 42.7  | 41.0      | 42.3        | 42.3       |
| Jam, plum ..                       | 1½ lb tin    | 24.5  | 26.7      | 26.2        | 26.7       |
| Jam, marmalade ..                  | 1½ lb tin    | 27.4  | 28.6      | 28.2        | 28.9       |
| Honey, liquid ..                   | 16 oz jar    | 26.7  | 27.7      | 27.9        | 27.8       |
| Peanut Paste ..                    | 12 oz jar    | 40.3  | 44.4      | 44.7        | 45.3       |
| Beans, baked, canned ..            | 16 oz tin    | 16.0  | 16.8      | 16.2        | 16.4       |
| Spaghetti, canned ..               | 16 oz tin    | 15.9  | 16.8      | 16.2        | 16.4       |
| Margarine, table ..                | 1 lb         | 38.8  | 39.7      | 39.7        | 39.8       |
| Sauce, tomato ..                   | 10 oz bottle | 22.4  | 22.9      | 22.8        | 22.5       |
| Pickles, mustard ..                | 10 oz jar    | 24.3  | 23.9      | 24.4        | 24.4       |
| Sardines, Norwegian ..             | 3¼ oz tin    | 16.3  | 16.6      | 16.6        | 16.5       |
| Salmon, Australian, canned ..      | 16 oz tin    | 42.8  | 43.8      | 42.8        | 42.8       |
| Soup, tomato ..                    | 16 oz tin    | 18.4  | 18.0      | 18.0        | 18.0       |
| Quarter Ended<br>September 1969    |              |       |           |             |            |
| <u>Meat</u>                        |              |       |           |             |            |
| Beef, rib, roast (without bone)    | 1 lb         | 51.6  |           | 54.5        |            |
| " , steak, rump ..                 | 1 lb         | 78.3  |           | 81.5        |            |
| " , steak, chuck ..                | 1 lb         | 48.4  |           | 50.8        |            |
| " , steak, blade ..                | 1 lb         | 58.1  |           | 61.5        |            |
| " , sausages ..                    | 1 lb         | 26.6  |           | 28.0        |            |
| " , silverside, corned ..          | 1 lb         | 55.3  |           | 56.9        |            |
| " , brisket, corned ..             | 1 lb         | 41.2  |           | 42.8        |            |
| Mutton, leg ..                     | 1 lb         | 34.2  |           | 34.2        |            |
| " , chops, loin ..                 | 1 lb         | 33.1  |           | 32.0        |            |
| " , chops, leg ..                  | 1 lb         | 34.2  |           | 33.7        |            |
| Lamb, leg ..                       | 1 lb         | 49.3  |           | 50.1        |            |
| " , chops, loin ..                 | 1 lb         | 52.7  |           | 51.8        |            |
| " , chops, leg ..                  | 1 lb         | 52.6  |           | 51.9        |            |
| Pork, leg ..                       | 1 lb         | 61.7  |           | 60.3        |            |
| " , loin ..                        | 1 lb         | 60.7  |           | 59.8        |            |
| " , chops ..                       | 1 lb         | 61.0  |           | 60.1        |            |
| Bacon, rashers, pre-packed ..      | ½ lb         | 51.1  |           | 49.8        |            |